(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A detailed discussion was held with Ministry of Human Resource Development in which representatives of Higher Education, Secondary Education and Primary Education participated.

Completion of Projects

1076. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn a plan for timely completion of the projects in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the projects, Ministry-wise, involving an investment of Rupees twenty crores or more which are pending at present; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to control cost overrun of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of the 543 projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above, which are being monitored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 413 projects are scheduled for completion during the 10th Five Year Plan.

(c) Ministry-wise details of the monitored projects are available in the Quarterly Project Implementation Status Report for the period ending September 2002, placed in the Libraries of both the Houses of the Parliament.

(d) The steps taken to ensure control over cost overrun in projects include:

(i) Adoption of two-stage clearance system and stricter appraisal of project reports before investment approval;

(ii) taking up of projects for implementation only after funds have been fully tied up;

(iii) indepth review of projects by the Government on monthly/ quarterly basis;

(iv) setting up of Empowered Committees in the administrative Ministries for review of departmentally executed projects;

(v) setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns;

(vi) appointment of a nodal officer for each project with continuity of tenure; and

(vii) issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents for adoption.